CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (previously presented): A method of preparing cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form, comprising the steps :

(a) cutting avian sternal cartilage to within not less than 2 mm of the sternum and removing the cut sternal cartilage from the sternum;

(b) freezing the cut sternal cartilage into frozen cartilage;

(c) grinding the frozen cartilage into ground-cartilage;

(d) suspending the ground cartilage in an aqueous solution;

(e) sterilizing the ground cartilage;

(f) filtering the sterilized ground cartilage;

(g) defatting the ground cartilage;

(h) filtering the defatted ground cartilage;

(i) drying the ground cartilage; and

(j) milling the dried ground cartilage into powder form.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 10 wherein the aqueous solution is water.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 10 wherein the sterilizing ~~of the ground cartilage is accomplished by~~step includes heating the ground cartilage ~~at a minimum of 95 C~~ to at least 95°C for ~~a minimum of~~ at least 30 minutes.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of Claim 10 wherein the defatting step includes treating ~~of~~ the ground cartilage ~~is accomplished by using~~ with ethanol.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim 10, wherein the drying ~~of the ground cartilage is accomplished by~~ step includes heating the ground cartilage ~~at a minimum of 95 C~~ to at least 95°C for ~~a minimum of~~ at least 6 hours.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the dried ground cartilage is milled into a powder form having a size between about 80 mesh to 200 mesh.

Claims 16 (withdrawn): Cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form; said material comprising collagen type II derived from avian sternal cartilage and having an average molecular weight of between about 45,000 and 65,000 daltons.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A method for treating an individual with a connective tissue disorder, comprising administering to said individual an effective daily amount of cartilage-derived material

comprising collagen type II in powder form having an average molecular weight of between about 45,000 and 65,000 daltons.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The method of claim 17, wherein said connective tissue disorder is selected from the group consisting of degenerative joint diseases, joint defects, osteoarthritis, polychondritis, vascular disease, cartilage injuries, silicone poisoning, autoimmune diseases, progressive myopia, and menier's disease.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of administering a daily dose between about 600 mg and 10,000 mg of cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of administering a daily dose between about 2,400 mg and 3,600 mg of cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A method of providing cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form to an individual as a nutritional supplement, comprising administering to said individual an effective daily amount of cartilage-derived material comprising collagen type II in powder form having an average molecular weight of between about 45,000 and 65,000 daltons.